STRAIGHT WIRE

April 17, 1968

The Reverend Ralph Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

I send my warmest congratulations to you and the leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on the successful conclusion of the strike of sanitation workers in Memphis. Your dedication and determined support of this struggle for social justice, union recognition, decent wages and for human dignity was decisive in making this victory possible.

The victorious struggle of the Memphis sanitation workers is another historic step in the long road that we must travel together to make social justice, equal rights and human dignity the universal blessings that all people everywhere may share.

The International Union, UAW, will be proud and pleased to cooperate with and participate in the Poor Peoples March organized under the auspices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The UAW has been and will continue to be in the forefront of the struggle for equal

rights and equal opportunities. We marched together in Washington, in Detroit, in Selma, in Jackson, in Memphis and in Atlanta and we will be proud to march with the poor people of America true to the traditions of the UAW to help the disadvantaged, the dispossed and the discriminated against wherever and whenever we can.

We would appreciate receiving detailed information concerning the Poor Peoples March as soon as possible and in working with the SCLC in making it as symbolic a success as was the 1963 March on Washington.

Kindest personal regards.

Walter P. Reuther, President
International Union, UAW

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM ®

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

200P EDT MAY 9 68 PA170 AD218

A LLM131 PD 2 EXTRA FAX ATLANTA GA 9 115P EDT

WALTER REUTHER, UNITED AUTO WORKERS

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ATLANTIC CITY NJER

CONGRATULATIONS ON WQST CONVENTION. YOU AND ALL OF US MUST HELP FILL GIANT VOID LEFT BY LOSS MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE DIED SUPPORTING ORGANIZED LABOR. AS HIS SUCCESSORS WE MUST SAY WE ARE TROUBLED THAT LABOR HAS THUS FAR MANIFESTED LITTLE SUPPORT FOR SCLC. CONTRIBUTIONS AND MESSAGES FROM BUSINESS, PROFESSIONALS, MIDDLE-CLASS COMPRESSIVE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO LABOR. URGE YOU FURNISH LEADERSHIP AND EXAMPLE BY PLEDGING ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION SCLC AND TWENTY THOUSAND MEMBERS FROM YOUR RANKS. MARTIN KING WAS FERVENT BELIEVER IN ORGANIZED LABOR; WOULD BE TRAGIC FOR ALL OF US IF RESPONSE TO HIS DEATH WAS WEAKEAST AT THIS POINT. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED THAT STOCK EXCHANGE CLOSED FOR HIS FUNERAL, BUT ORGANIZED LABOR HAS NOT YET OPENED ITS HEART

SF1201(R2-65)

Leadership Conference

SCLC

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM ®

W. P. MARSHALL
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TO HIM. FORGIVE MY FRANKNESS. AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN A CRISIS PERIOD MUST SPEA TO OUR COMMON INTEREST AND APPEAL FOR YOUR INITIATIVE AND LEADERSHIP

WILLIAM A RUTHERFORD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SCLC

(149).

SF1201(R2-65)

June 12, 1968

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
c/o Poor People's Campaign
Resurrection City
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ralph:

Pursuant to our discussions in Washington on Monday evening, June 10th, I have asked Bill Oliver to deliver to you, on behalf of our International Union, our check in the amount of $4,500., which represents the initial installment of several contributions to aid the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in providing food for the poor at Resurrection City.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Walter P. Reuther
President

WPR:ob
oepiu 42

June 12, 1968

Mr. Reies Lopez Tijerina
Spanish American Committee of
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Resurrection City - c/o Poor People's Campaign
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Tijerina:

This is in response to your earlier communication with regards to participation by approximately 1,000 Mexican Americans from the southwest part of the United States in the Poor People's Campaign sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

You indicated in your letter that participation by Spanish Americans in this historic undertaking designed to dramatize the plight of the poor represents the first occasion on which both black and brown poor have come together in a joint effort to demonstrate their co-operation and their solidarity in the common objectives and mutual interests of the poor people of our nation.

You have indicated further, "We feel that there are specific needs that are unique to the Spanish speaking that should be attended to while these people are in Washington." To facilitate these needs, you have requested that we consider a contribution to your group.

We have discussed your request with Dr. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who has indicated a willingness to cooperate in this matter. As you no doubt recognize, the Indian group also has certain unique problems.

Therefore, on behalf of our International Union, I have asked Bill Oliver to deliver to you the first of four checks in the amount of $500. each. We are earmarking these funds for use by the Spanish American Committee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Indian group of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference participating in the Poor People's Campaign.

We sincerely hope that this arrangement will facilitate the common problems effecting both groups and will strengthen that solidarity and devotion to the common cause and mutual interest of making the Poor People's Campaign, under the leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a success.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

Walter P. Reuther, President
INTERNATIONAL UNION, U A W

cc: Dr. Ralph Abernathy

June 12, 1968

Mr. Dale Hawkins
Resurrection City Bakery
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your kindness extended to the UAW delegation and myself during our visit to Resurrection City and the Resurrection City Bakery on Monday afternoon, June 10th.

As I indicated during our visit, the bread which your group is producing is some of the best bread which I have tasted. Let me commend you and those associated with you who are conducting this special project for the Poor People's Campaign at Resurrection City for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

I have asked Bill Oliver to deliver to you, on behalf of our International Union, our check in the amount of $100., which represents an expression of our gratitude and support of your endeavor.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

Walter P. Reuther
President

SCLC

June 2, 1969

Dear Ralph:

Pursuant to the UAW commitment, enclosed is a check in the amount of $500.00 to assist the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in support of its efforts in behalf of striking hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina.

Best of luck in your endeavors and with all good wishes.

Sincerely,

WPR:lbm
opeiu42
enc.

Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy
President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

July 2, 1968

Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Abernathy:

The attached money was sent to Mr. Reuther by one of the UAW members in Malta who is currently retired.

We would appreciate it if you would send an appropriate acknowledgement to the donor.

Sincerely yours,

IB:lm
opeiu42
att.

Irving Bluestone
Administrative Assistant
to the President

from George Deicluna (?)
135 Bartholomew
Quomi, Malta

Inter-Office Communication

August 20, 1968

To Walter P. Reuther

From William H. Oliver

Subject 11th Annual Convention - Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Dear Walter:

Despite some obvious disgruntles in the leadership and on the Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy was elected as President at their 11th Convention in Memphis last week. Reverend Abernathy had the unqualified support of Mrs. Coretta King. The delegation from the UAW included Shelton Tappes, Detroit; Gerald Daniel, Washington Office, and James Wright, Chicago.

Approximately 1,000 delegates attended the 3-1/2 day session of the conference scheduled August 14-17, 1968, but was abruptly adjourned on Saturday morning because of some dissension among the black groups; most especially the Invaders, a young Memphis group that was involved in the garbage strike demonstrations. In addition thereto, there was extremely heavy security and threats on Abernathy's life which may have been some of the contributing factors to the early adjournment.

The re-election of Abernathy is significant in the absence from the convention of Congressman Conyers, Poitier and Belafonte who allegedly may have been involved in a group endeavoring to influence Mrs. King to step into the leadership of the organization. Reverend Abernathy was re-elected as you know by the Board, and not the Conference and the resolutions which were not available of course opposed the war in Vietnam.

Several very interesting and salient proclamations were issued by Reverend Abernathy, prominent among these are as follows:

Abernathy said:

1. The group will venture further into the fields of politics and economic development this year.

2. "We, the black people, will determine who will be president. We have conducted a massive voter registration and the black people are going to the polls in November."

3. that he is against Richard Nixon, but he stopped short of endorsing any Democrat.

4. strongly favored Poor People's International Union that transcends all governments.

5. Announced that he will call a National Convention of high school and college youth so that "the voice of youth can be heard across the country."

6. Would no longer try to convince Negroes to "cool it."

7. "The black vote this year will hold the balance of power... there is now no enthusiasm among Negroes for Republican presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon "because he has demonstrated that he is controlled by men like Strom Thurmond."

8. But there may be even less enthusiasm for Hubert Humphrey, "for fear that he is controlled by Mayor Daley in Chicago, Sen. Eastland of Mississippi and Lyndon Baines Johnson who is presently in the White House.

9. Unless there is a candidate "who is free to serve the people and meet their needs," Negroes might boycott the presidential election.

10. "It may be that as black people we will have to have a blackout of the presidential election."

Mrs. Coretta King spoke at the banquet which was jam packed with some 500 or 600 people, and Mayor Richard G. Hatcher of Gary, Indiana spoke to a mass rally on Friday evening to an audience estimated at around 5,000.

The resolutions which were apparently acted on by the Board, in view of the hasty adjournment on Saturday morning, dealt with Southern Christian Leadership Conference' stand against the Vietnam War, a proposed nation-wide boycott against a grocery chain (A&P), and possible endorsement or supporting statement on a presidential candidate. No public announcement was made with respect to SCLC's position on these three matters, and of course neither the Board nor the Convention endorsed a presidential candidate.

The National Democratic Convention has invited Reverend Abernathy and Mrs. King as their guests at the Convention in Chicago next week. I think it might be wise if we might have an opportunity to talk to Reverend Abernathy when he reaches Chicago. I will be in touch with you about this matter.

It appears that one of the other interesting developments is that there was no anti-white sentiment. The staff is still integrated and a number of the clergy, especially the Catholic faith, attended the convention.

It was of course poorly organized as usual, thus the reason for the absence of copies of the resolution and texts of speeches which we have been trying to secure.

I am attaching a copy of the program and some press notices which may be of interest to you.

With kindest regards.

Fraternally,

William H. Oliver

WHO:dhg
opeiu42aflcio
enc.

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: W. R. R.

FROM: W. W.

✓ .....For your information

.....Note and return to me

.....Per your request

.....For your action

Comments:.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

oeiu42

Announcing

SCLC Annual Convention

Place: **Memphis Tennessee**

Date: **August 14-17, 1968**

Headquarters: CME Headquarters Building
531 So. Parkway

Theme: NEW LIFE FOR POOR PEOPLE

Highlights

Wednesday, August 14th —

Registration
Board Meeting
ART AND CULTURE NIGHT

Thursday, August 15th —

Registration
President's Report
Panel and Workshops
Poor People and Education
Poor People and Economics

ANNUAL FREEDOM BANQUET
Paradise Club-645 East Georgia Ave.
Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Speaker

Friday, August 16th —

Business Session
Conference Sermon
Memorial Service for Dr. King
Panel and Workshops
Poor People and Politics
Poor People and the Military
Mass Rally-CME Headquarters Buliding
Dr. Ralph David Abernathy
Speaker
Presentations of Awards

Saturday, August 17th —

Business Session
Reports
Resolutions
Closing

129th YEAR—No. 229

Memphis Press

Blacks Applaud SCLC Put-Down Of Both Parties

8-16-68

SCIMITAR

Abernathy Criticizes Nixon, Humphrey, Hints Boycott Of National Election

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy told a clapping, cheering crowd yesterday that "we may need as black people to have a blackout on the (presidential) election" if the Democratic Party refuses to repudiate the policies of the Johnson administration.

Speaking at the 11th annual Southern Christian Leadership Conference convention the Rev. Mr. Abernathy warned Democrats that "they don't have the black vote in their hip pocket."

"At the present time, there is no enthusiasm by Negroes over (Richard M.) Nixon because he is controlled by Senator Strom Thurmond," the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said.

"But there may be — I said may be — less enthusiasm for Hubert Humphrey for fear he will be controlled by . . . Lyndon Baines Johnson."

Realistically, he said, "there is a much greater chance that the Democrats will nominate Hubert Humphrey. We have to consider the realities."

After his speech, the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said ending "this win-less, unjust and vicious war in Vietnam" should be the first priority of any future president.

"Only then, can we have the anti-poverty programs that were the goals of the poor People's Campaign."

Throughout his 88-minute speech to about 750 aroused delegates, the Rev. Mr. Abernathy demonstrated he was firmly in control of the convention. For almost 10 minutes he derided reports of division within SCLC ranks.

"I want to say this to those members of the press who have tried to divide us: There is no dissension among us. We all stand together."

The crowd roared its approval, then rushed forth to congratulate him in a swaying wave as a four-piece band played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy emphasized that even if black people don't vote in the presidential election, "They will vote in city an county elections as never before.

"All those who play the Negro voter cheap had better look out," he said to the chant of "Soul Power."

Negroes hold substantial voting power, and I intend to preside over it."

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy also called for increased Negro business participation, an expansion of the battle against poverty and an end to SCLC "babysitting" against riots.

"Eventually, black men must control the economics of their community," he said. "If the businessmen in the ghetto make their money there, then their money must remain in the ghetto.

But once rioting begins, the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said he would no longer try to convince Negroes to "cool it."

Although he said "violence is not the way, and we will not turn to violence," the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said he was "sick and tired of taking it easy."

The SCLC president drew only scattered applause when he called Memphis "the capital of Mississippi, a city swarming with brutal and vicious cops who made their way out of the swamps of Mississippi to Memphis."

Reviewing the activities of the SCLC last year, the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said the Poor People's Campaign "made America see her poor."

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy also announced that he will call a national convention of high school and college youth so that "the voice of youth can be heard across the country."

Mrs. Coretta King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., addressed the convention last night.

SCLC Chiefs Shape Policy

8-15-68

Plans Laid Out In Closed Sessions—Abernathy To Speak At 10 Today

By GREGORY JAYNES

Yesterday was policy day for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as its directors met behind locked doors to map plans for the coming year.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, SCLC president, said the group will venture further into the fields of politics and economic development this year. "We, the black poor people, will determine who will be president. We have conducted a massive voter registration and the black people are going to the polls in November."

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy declined to be more specific about plans. He will address the convention at 10 this morning at the CME Church at 562 South Parkway West.

The board members met earlier at the Claridge as a cordon of Negro police officers kept the public away. Other officers were lined up outside the room of Mrs. Coretta King, Dr. King's widow.

2

Other members of the board, including Judge Ben Hooks of Memphis and the Rev. Andrew Young, executive vice president of SCLC, joined the Rev. Mr. Abernathy in silence about the board's policy deliberations. But in a year which has seen the killing of Dr. King, the Poor People's Campaign with its Resurrection City in Washington and the demonstrations at the national political conventions, there obviously were plenty of topics.

Mrs. King made a 30-minute detour by the Lorraine Motel, where her husband was killed April 4. She made no comment to the 50 persons who stood aside as she climbed the steps to Room 306. Others are paying 50 cents apiece to see the room where Dr. King spent his last night.

The Rev. A. D. King, her brother-in-law, left the board meeting to fly back to Louisville, Ky., where his church was damaged by a dynamite blast early yesterday. He flew back to Memphis last night.

As the board members met, the chance they will endorse a presidential candidate dimmed. The Rev. Mr. Abernathy made it clear on his arrival Tuesday that he is against Richard Nixon, but he stopped short of endorsing any Democrat.

The board did invite Democratic hopeful Eugene McCarthy to attend Friday's session. But McCarthy said his schedule would not permit it.

Workshop sessions will start today and Mrs. King will speak at a Freedom Banquet at 8 tonight at Club Paradise.

(Picture on Page 76)

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference speakers are outlining a new militancy and a toughly expressed distrust of the federal government.

3

The SCLC, meeting in Memphis to chart a course for the new year, winds up its 11th annual convention today at 531 S. Parkway East.

Speaker after speaker has urged more demonstrations, come what may, and expressed dislike for all policies and functions of the United States government.

INTERNATIONAL

One speaker, Rev. Andrew Young—second in command to Dr. Ralph Abernathy who was reelected yesterday as president of SCLC—speaks strongly for a poor people's international union that transcends all governments.

"When we are in touch with the poor in South America and other parts of the world, there can be no more Vietnams. We will know what to expect," he said.

Young told a story of an American citizen's visit to a South American country, of student protests that arose over it, saying, "But they were put down by armies equipped with M-1 rifles, cars made by Ford and trucks by Chevrolet. There can be no more Che Guevara's because of the CIA and the Green Berets. No more freedom for students to speak out because of U.S. oppression."

The Rev. James Bevel, another SCLC official, explains SCLC's opposition to the Vietnam war this way:

"The U.S. government is involved in genocide—the systematic murder of nonwhite people. The only reason the United States is at war with that country is because it wants to take over the country. It wants the land," Bevel said, "for rice, for tungsten and for a military base against Asia."

4

BOMB

When Rev. Clarence Franklin, father of soul singer Aretha Franklin, said at yesterday's memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, "And China now has the atomic bomb," there was wild cheering.

The militancy against everything the U.S. government stands for is reflected in Abernathy's promise for the future:

"We will no longer be afraid that demonstrations will turn into violence. That is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies. We are not asking any longer, we are demanding. Demanding that the government live up to its promises."

Abernathy Unity Miffs Militants

8-16-68

By CALVIN TAYLOR JR.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference move into the final day of its national convention today with the delegates vocally behind the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy.

At a business meeting yesterday, the SCLC board unanimously elected the Rev. Mr. Abernathy as president, the post he has held since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed April 4.

But there were indications that the SCLC's announced plans for expanded demonstrations were not strong enough to suit some of the young militants.

The convention is meeting at the CME Church at 531 South Parkway East.

Following a memorial service for Dr. King yesterday afternoon several members of the Invaders, a local black power group, demanded a meeting with the Rev. Mr. Abernathy. The SCLC leader instead sent the Rev. Andrew Young, executive vice president, and the Rev. Hosea Williams into a closed-door meeting to hear the Invaders' demands to "get down to business."

About two and a half hours later the meeting broke up with the issue obviously unresolved. The Invaders stalked angrily away. The Rev. Mr. Young later tried to dismiss the confrontation as "just one of those things. We had them every day at Resurrection City. It's really nothing."

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy said later that he would be glad to meet with the Invaders to try to resolve their differences.

The election and memorial service were the main items on the program for the third day of the convention. The Rev. Mr. Abernathy spoke at a mass rally last night at Mason Temple.

There were few surprises in the election. The Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, an early companion of Dr. King in the civil rights fight, was moved up from treasurer to second vice president, a spot once occupied by the Rev. Mr. Abernathy. Criminal Court Judge Ben L. Hooks of Memphis was elected financial secretary. Judge Hooks is a longtime SCLC board member.

Mrs. Coretta King, widow of Dr. King, did not attend the board meeting, although she is a member. She did attend the memorial service.

Asked about the statement by Senator Eugene McCarthy, the Democratic presidential hopeful, that Mrs. King was the kind of person he would like to appoint as ambassador to the United Nations, she said: "I haven't read Mr. McCarthy's statement. I have no comment at this time."

A resolutions committee headed by the Rev. James Lawson of Memphis will report this morning. Three things expected to head the list are a stand against the Vietnam War, a proposed nationwide boycott against a grocery chain and possible endorsement or supporting statement on a presidential candidate.

Also on the program for last night's rally was Richard G. Hatcher, mayor of Gary, Ind.

Mayor Hatcher was welcomed at the airport yesterday afternoon by a delegation which included the Rev. Mr. Abernathy and Mrs. King. But another notable had less luck.

Comedian Dick Gregory arrived a short time earlier and found no one to greet him.

SCLC Hears Leader Ask 'Soul Power'

8/12/68

Mrs. Coretta King Asks Rededication To Non-Violence

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference began the third day of its convention in Memphis today with cries of "soul power," "non-violence" and an end to "social injustice" ringing in delegates' ears.

In an emotion-filled meeting last night, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., SCLC founder, called on the organization to follow more closely the principles of love and non-violence in the civil rights struggle.

"We must rededicate ourselves anew to the principles of love and non-violence," Mrs. Coretta King told a capacity crowd at Club Paradise.

ABERNATHY

Earlier yesterday, Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, King's successor, shouting "soul power," said neither political party may take for granted the Negro vote.

Clad in a simple black dress and a multi-colored necklace, Mrs. King stood confidently before more than 3,000 persons and said, "For almost 300 years America has been guilty of the worst form of hypocrisy. History will judge our nation for the greatest crime of all, injustice to its fellow man.

"This great, immoral crime will always be on the conscience of America until there is justice for all mankind."

ON BRINK

Mrs. King said historians and social philosophers agree that our civilization is on the brink of destruction because of wars from without and within with the primary cause being racism.

"The very basic fiber of our nation is being destroyed by violence which has been fostered by racism," she said.

As a solution, she said, "I think much of the answer lies in the soul power of black folk. There is a need for moral reawakening in America which only the black people can give."

Aretha Franklin, known in music circles as "Lady Soul," departed from her usual rhythm and blues act to perform a combined gospel and blues number entitled, "Got You In My Power."

AUTOGRAPHS

Miss Franklin arrived 15 minutes early and was besieged by autograph seekers.

As many as 500 people were left outside during the banquet, holding $6-a-plate dinner tickets.

The main party, which consisted of Abernathy, his wife, Mrs. King and some of her children, and several SCLC aides, arrived shortly after 9 p.m. and did not have a chance to eat dinner due to the hour and the large crowd.

Mrs. King entered through the rear with a police escort

From Page 1

and brought the audience to a standing ovation while a five-piece combo played "Glory, Glory, Alleluia."

REPRESENTATION

Mrs. King also called for efforts to develop greater political power and more adequate representation for Negroes. This same political note was sounded by other SCLC speakers, including the top leadership.

King was shot to death last April 4 at the Lorraine Motel after he returned to the city to lead a demonstration of striking Negro garbage collectors. The SCLC convention is being held in Memphis because King was assassinated here.

Abernathy told delegates Thursday, "The black vote this year will hold the balance of power." He said there is now no enthusiasm among Negroes for Republican presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon "because he has demonstrated that he is controlled by men like Strom Thurmond." He referred to the South Carolina senator who aided Nixon in winning the nomination.

HUMPHREY

"But there may be even less enthusiasm for Hubert Humphrey," Abernathy said, "for fear that he is controlled by Mayor Daley in Chicago, Sen. Eastland of Mississippi and Lyndon Baines Johnson who is presently in the White House."

Abernathy said unless there is a candidate "who is free to serve the people and meet their needs," Negroes might boycott the presidential election. "It may be that as black people we will have to have a blackout of the presidential election," he said.

On the economic front, Abernathy threatened a nationwide Negro boycott of some stores.

"We're not going to hit you in the head with bricks and bottles, but we're going to hit you in the pocketbook," he said. "This is what we call soul power."

"Soul power!" chorused the crowd, picking up the new solgan — a takeoff on the much-discussed black power slogan.

SCLC Smooths Over Rift With Memphis Militants

SAT AUG 17

A black militant charge of "betrayal" was smoothed over as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference ended its convention one day early after electing Rev. Ralph Abernathy president.

The convention also rejected the Republican nominee for president, Richard Nixon.

THREAT

Rev. Abernathy cancelled a business meeting scheduled for this afternoon and closed the convention. He also promised dissident militants, a Memphis group who had threatened to run an Abernathy aide out of town, that "every promise made to the group, The Invaders, by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be kept."

The Invaders accused SCLC of betraying "our brothers and sisters" in the Poor Peoples' Campaign, and of "reneging on promises made by Dr. King."

SCLC, in its rally at Mason Temple last night, also rejected the Republican national ticket and adopted a wait-and-see position on the Democrats.

PROPOSAL

Richard G. Hatcher, Negro mayor of Gary, Ind., said the Democratic Party should seriously consider making a black man its vice presidential choice. He said there are many black men around he country who have the qualifications to be president.

Hatcher ruled himself out of consideration and declined to name any Negro he thought qualified for president.

"We are disenchanted with the nominees of the Republican Party," said a resolution adopted by the delegates at the rally, attended by more than 6,500. The resolution urged that no support be given to GOP nominee Richard Nixon and his running-mate Spiro Agnew.

It marks the first time the SCLC has stepped into a national campaign.

MAYOR HATCHER

After electing Abernathy, the convention then named the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, an early civil rights worker with Dr. King, as vice president.

Memphis Criminal Court Judge Ben. L. Hooks was elected financial secretary. Rev. Hooks is also a SCLC board member.

The political resolution said the SCLC would support the Democratic ticket — to be named in Chicago later this month — only if the party platform calls for ending the Vietnam War immediately and at the same time eliminating poverty.

The threatened revolt of black militants began yesterday during a "gripe session" at the Negro CME Church. The Invaders attending the session accused the Rev. Andrew Young, executive vice president of SCLC, and the organization itself of reneging on a promise of Dr. King to help them establish a black culture program in Memphis and help raise $300,000 to finance it.

DENIAL

Young said SCLC made no such promise and the Invaders stormed out of the meeting and told the Rev. Jesse Jackson of Chicago, a top SCLC staffer, that Young had two hours to get out of town or "you got trouble right here."

A tense situation developed and SCLC hastily called in about 25 of the tough rangers used to guard Resurrection City. The security men quickly surrounded leaders of SCLC on the podium at the Mason Temple rally last night when Invaders barged into the building to hand out statements accusing SCLC of broken promises.

The statement read in part: "Today SCLC staff worker Andrew Young (second in command of the civil rights organization) accused

Turn to Page 5—SCLC

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1968

NEGRO CULTURE, HISTORY

David Green, artist, describes portrait of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Betty Rollins, at exhibit set up for SCLC convention in Memphis. —Press-Scimitar Staff Photo by Ken Ross

SCLC May Change Board

From Page 1

cused on us this week. They want to know if we are going to give up and turn around. We will be answering that question during these meetings but I can reply to the question right now. No!"

"We are sick and tired of people being hungry in this rich nation of ours. We came here to demand guaranteed annual income and meaningful jobs for the black poor," he said. Abernathy was flanked by two guards who wore blue flight suits and amulets with the words "Black Knight" scrawled on them.

'BRAINWASHED'

Dr. William Rutherford, prior to discussing black culture said, "we have been brainwashed and now we're gonna get unbrainwashed. In fact we're going to do some brainwashing."

A singing group accompanied by a bongo player and a ballet troupe then performed a series of numbers which portrayed Negro history from its beginning to present.

Nat D. Williams, a teacher at Booker T. Washington High School, explained the pageantry and said songs were the easiest way to explain the black man's past.

Performing the pageant was the Shirly Rushing Dance Group from Spellman College, an all-Negro women's institution in Atlanta.

Williams said the quest for Negro history and culture was not a move for separation between races, but a search for identity.

August 22, 1968

Dear Reverend Abernathy:

I have just returned from California where I was involved in negotiations with the aerospace industry, and this is the first opportunity I have had to send my warmest best wishes and heartiest congratulations on your election to the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

I consider it a privilege to have been able to work and march with you in some of the great struggles in the past and I pledge my continued cooperation as we face new challenges in the struggle to extend the frontiers of human betterment and economic dignity.

I send my warmest best wishes.

Sincerely,

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

The Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Letter to Ruth Abernathy
copy + work Tryin for

Aug 14-17
W-20
Ac-20

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

WUY562 401 AA396 A LLK281 PDB

AUG 12 1968

FAX ATLANTA GA 9 520P EDT
WALTER REUTHER, UNITED AUTO WORKERS
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE DET
DEAR MR REUTHER: THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS HOLDING ITS ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE AUGUST 14-17. WE ARE TERRIBLY SORRY YOUR INVITATION HAS NOT REACHED YOU BEFORDE NOW. WE NEED YOU AND OTHER UAW MEMBERS TO SHARE THIS OCCASION WITH US. THE THEME THIS YEAR IS "NEW LIFE FOR POOR PEOPLE." WE PLAN TO FOCUS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND MILITARISM AS THEY RELATE TO THE OPPRESSED. WE DO HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US SINCERELY
RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY
(530).

904A EDT AUG 12 68

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

AUG 12 1968

334 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone 522-1420

SCLC

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*
1957 - 1968

Ralph D. Abernathy, *President*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Vice President* William A. Rutherford, *Executive Director* Cirilo McSween, *Treasurer*

August 9, 1968

Aug 14-17

Mr. Walter Reuther
United Auto Workers
8000 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48214

Dear Mr. Reuther:

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is holding its eleventh annual convention August 14 - 17 in Memphis, Tennessee. The theme this year is "New Life For Poor People". Headquarters is the C.M.E. Headquarters Building 531 South Parkway. Staff will be housed at the Claridge Hotel.

In the light of recent tragedies suffered by ourselves and the nation, we feel it is urgent that we take a long look at where we are now in the struggle for justice. Dr. King's last dream and effort is, of course, our major thrust. In this regard we plan to focus attention at the convention on education, politics, militarism and economics as it relates to poor people. Special consultants in each of these areas are invited to direct our thinking through major presentations and workshops.

We hope you can share this experience with us. Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this invitation.

Sincerely,

Ralph D. Abernathy

Ralph David Abernathy
President

RDA/g
cc: Mr. William Oliver

Announcing

SCLC Annual Convention

Place: **Memphis Tennessee**

Date: **August 14-17, 1968**

Headquarters: CME Headquarters Building
531 So. Parkway

Theme: NEW LIFE FOR POOR PEOPLE

Highlights

Wednesday, August 14th —

Registration
Board Meeting
ART AND CULTURE NIGHT

Thursday, August 15th —

Registration
President's Report
Panel and Workshops
Poor People and Education
Poor People and Economics

ANNUAL FREEDOM BANQUET
Paradise Club-645 East Georgia Ave.
Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Speaker

Friday, August 16th —

Business Session
Conference Sermon
Memorial Service for Dr. King
Panel and Workshops
Poor People and Politics
Poor People and the Military
Mass Rally-CME Headquarters Buliding
Dr. Ralph David Abernathy
Speaker
Presentations of Awards

Saturday, August 17th —

Business Session
Reports
Resolutions
Closing

Straight Wire

August 30, 1968

Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Atlanta, Georgia

Re Marks, Mississippi project, have arranged for Jack Conway to meet with your group in Washington at mutually convenient time during coming week. Mr. Conway may be reached by phoning area 202 -- 554-5250. He will be expecting your call so that arrangements for meeting can be made. Kindest regards.

Walter P. Reuther

WPR:ob
opeiu 42
cc: Conway
Bill Oliver

STRAIGHT WIRE October 4, 1968

The Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy
President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Urge your presence with me and other conveners at meeting on Hunger in America, in Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, October 16. I want to underline the importance of this meeting. Your presence is important. Conveners will meet in Pennsylvania Room of Mayflower Hotel at 11 a.m., working together through lunch prepatatory to general meeting at 1:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there.

Walter P. Reuther

STRAIGHT WIRE January 9, 1969

Miss Dora McDonald
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Confirming our phone conversation this morning, Mr. Reuther very much regrets previous commitments will prevent his participation in special services commemorating birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15th. He will, however, be represented by Mr. William H. Oliver and Mrs. Mildred Jeffrey.

Otha Brown, Secretary to
Walter P. Reuther

cc: Bill Oliver
Mildred Jeffrey

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Jan 15

TB

GA WU PLS

OP SORRY TO ASK AGAIN BUT PLSE REPEATE Y534 FIRST LINE OF MSG
GBLD

CA

CA

CALL U BACK

V

WUY534 WUB030 AA514 A LLY409 LLZ29 NL PDB AR
FAX ATLANTA GA 6
WALTER RAUTHER
8000 E JEFFERSON DET
OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
AND THE FAMILY OF LHE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,R
JR. INVITE YOUR PARTI
BIRTHDAY OF DR. KING, JR. JANUARY 15, 1969,
AT 11:00 A.M. EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA,
GEORGIA.
PLEASE ADVISE DORA MCDONALD, AT SCLC OFFICE, IAREA
404 522-1420 WHETHER YOU WILL BE PRESENT AND PARTICIPATE.
CLEVELAND RGBINSON CO-ORDINATOR.

15 1969 11:00 A.M. 404 522-1420.

1008A EST JAN 7 69

HOW NOW?

PLSE REPEATE THE LINE STARTING S// WITH

AND THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ETC. ETC.

JR. INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL SERVICES
COMMEMORATING BIRTHDAY OF DR. KING

STRAIGHT WIRE January 14, 1969

Mr. Cleveland Robinson, Coordinator
Special Services Commemorating Birthday of Dr. King
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

I regret exceedingly that a prior commitment will make it impossible for me to personally attend the ceremonies commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. As you know, I have requested Mr. William H. Oliver, Co-Director of the UAW Fair Practices Department, and Mrs. Mildred Jeffrey, of our Community Relations Department, to attend the ceremonies at Atlanta on January 15, 1969 in my behalf and in behalf of the UAW.

The officers and members of the UAW cherish deeply the close relationship which we have had personally and as an organization with Dr. King and his noble cause. As has been true in the past, we will continue to dedicate our efforts ~~towards~~ toward the achievement of the unfinished ~~tak~~ tasks to which Dr. King devoted his life.

I understand that these ceremonies will serve as the commencement of an effort to have the late Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday celebrated as a national holiday. Unquestionably, the UAW is pleased to honor and join with you and the ~~disgin~~ distinguished group of citizens in this nation to work in support of this most meaningful cause.

All good wishes.

Walter P. Reuther

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

Inter-Office Communication

January 9, 1969

To Bill Oliver

From Otha

Subject

Cleveland Robinson called WPR today at 1:35 p.m. and in WPR's absence he talked to me.

I told him WPR had a long standing meeting for January 15th which was important to the Union and which involved a number of people and while he wanted to participate in the ceremonies commemorating Dr. King's birthday, he would be unable to. I also advised I had been in touch with Dora McDonald and that you and Mildred Jeffrey will represent WPR.

Mr. Robinson then asked if WPR would send a wire to him, as coordinator, at SCLC headquarters in Atlanta, stating:

1. ~~Greetings~~ that UAW re-dedicates itself to the unfinished task of making whole the dreams of Dr. King for America

2. That WPR understands this meeting marks the opening of a campaign to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday and that WPR gladly joins in this proposal.

WPR will be back later today but I feel I should have some opinion or draft from you before I raise this matter with him -- unless you want to do so, personally.

If there are any questions, call Mr. Robinson at Area 212 - Oregon 3-5120.

STRAIGHT WIRE January 9, 1969

Miss Dora McDonald
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

RECEIVED
JAN 9 1969
UAW FAIR PRACTICES DEPT.

Confirming our phone conversation this morning, Mr. Reuther very much regrets previous commitments will prevent his participation in special services commemorating birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15th. He will, however, be represented by Mr. William H. Oliver and Mrs. Mildred Jeffrey.

Otha Brown, Secretary to
Walter P. Reuther

cc: Bill Oliver
Mildred Jeffrey

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Jan 15

TB

GA WU PLS

OP SORRY TO ASK AGAIN BUT PLSE REPEATE Y534 FIRST LINE OF MSG
GBLD

CA

CA

CALL U BACK

V

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

WUY534 WUD030 AA514 A LLY409 LLZ29 NL PDB AR
FAX ATLANTA GA 6
WALTER RAUTHER
8000 E JEFFERSON DET
OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
AND THE FAMILY OF LHE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,R
JR. INVITE YOUR PARTI
BIRTHDAY OF DR. KING, JR. JANUARY 15, 1969,
AT 11:00 A.M. EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA,
GEORGIA.
PLEASE ADVISE DORA MCDONALD, AT SCLC OFFICE, IAREA
404 522-1420 WHETHER YOU WILL BE PRESENT AND PARTICIPATE.
CLEVELAND RGBINSON CO-ORDINATOR.

15 1969 11:00 A.M. 404 522-1420.

1008A EST JAN 7 69

TELEGRAM

HOW NOW?

PLSE REPEATE THE LINE STARTING S// WITH

AND THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ETC. ETC.

JR. INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL SERVICES
COMMEMORATING BIRTHDAY OF DR. KING

May 24, 1969

Dear Ralph:

Pursuant to the UAW commitment, enclosed is a check in the amount of $500 to assist the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in support of its efforts in behalf of striking hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina.

Best of luck in your endeavors and with all good wishes.

Sincerely,

WPR:lbm
opeiu42
enc.

Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy
President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

MAY 7 1969

WUY514 WUA560 SSF618 DE NNB036 (NY126NN404036)PD
WU MAIN A ATL 0923P EDT05/06/69
ZCZC 111 PD FAX ATLANTA GA 6 NFT
WALTER REUTHER, SOLIDARITY HOUSE
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE DET
BT
THE HOSPITAL WORKERS OF LOCAL 1199B HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE
AT THE
CHARLESTON COUNTY AND MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL FOR MORE THAN
SIX WEEKS. THE WORKERS SEEK BASIC RIGHTS WHICH ARE GUARANTEED
BY LAW TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICAN WORKERS--THE RIGHT
TO
ORGANIZE AND UNION RIGHTS. TODAY, I AM ISSUEING A NATIONAL
CALL
TO YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION TO JOIN US IN CHARLESTON ON SUNDAY,
MAY 11TH IN A MASSIVE MOTHERS DAY MARCH TO EXPRESS NATIONAL
SOLIDARITY WITH THESE STRIKING WORKERS.
WE MUST MAKE A DRAMATIC WITNESS FOR THIS NATION AGAINST
OPPRESSION AND DENIAL OF BASIC RIGHT OF POOR PEOPLE. THE

DEMONSTRATION WILL BEGIN AT COUNTY HALL ON KING STREET AT
3:00
P.M. (DST). PLEASE CONTACT MR. STONEY COOKS IN CHARLESTON,
CARE
BROOKS MOTEL, 60 MORRIS STREET OR PHONE AREA CODE
(803) 722-8489
OR 723-9264; CONCERNING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AFFECTING
YOUR
ARRIVAL.
NOTE: BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO PUBLICIZE
THIS
NATIONAL CALL ON YOUR LOCAL LEVEL.
DR RALPH D ABERNATHY PRESIDENT SCLC.
1199B 11 3:00 P.M. (DST) 60 (803) 722-8489
&
MIN PLS

723-9264.
NNNN(0928P EDT)

850A EST MAY 7 69

MHXR-AUDIO RDY..NXR

•

YYY

081

U R G E N T

(ATLANTA)---THE REVEREND A-D WILLIAMS KING---A LONGTIME ~~CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND BROTHER OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER~~ KING JUNIOR---HAS BEEN FOUND DEAD IN A SWIMMING POOL AT HIS ATLANTA HOME. HE WAS 38-YEARS-OLD. AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SAID KING ARRIVED HOME LATE LAST NIGHT AND WENT FOR A SWIM. HIS THREE YOUNGEST CHILDREN FOUND THE BODY THIS MORNING.

RU1157A 7/21CDT..

NXR GA PLS HXR..

Jack Edwards + Lopez of FFP Dept to be present Apr. 4

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

GM

APR 1 1969

WUY525 WUB131 SSF319 DE NNA096 (NY090NN301096)PD
WU MAIN A ATL 0733P EST03/31/69
ZCZC 099 PDB FAX ATLANTA GA 31 NFT
WALTER REUTHER, SOLIDARITY HOUSE
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE DET
B
DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ORGANIZING TO ENGAGE THE NATION IN
COMMEMORATION AND RECOMMITMENT TO THE WORK AND IDEALS OF
OUR
LATE PRESIDENT, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THESE
BEGINNING
CAMPAIGNS IN SEVERAL MAJOR CITIES SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS
SIMPLE
COMMEMORATION SERVICES, BUT AS THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND
CHAPTER
OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN--A CONTINUED ATTACK
ON POVERTY,
RACISM, AND WAR. WE MUST NOT ABANDON THE POOR OR OUR
IDENTIFICATION
WITH THEM.
I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU AND YOUR
ORGANIZATION
TO JOIN US IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH
AT 12:00 P.M.
AT CLAIBORNE TEMPLE AME CHURCH WHERE WE ARE PROJECTING
THE NATIONAL
FOCUS OF THESE DAYS OF COMMEMORATION. I URGE YOU
TO COME AND JOIN
THE NATION'S POOR AS TOGETHER WE BEGIN TO BUILD A SIGNIFICANT
LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE NATION'S FOREMOST NONVIOLENT
ACTIVIST.
WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, I REMAIN. SINCERELY YOURS.
RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY PRESIDENT SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

854A EST APR 1 69

May 16, 1969

Dear Ralph:

Pursuant to the UAW commitment, enclosed is a check in the amount of $500 to assist the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in support of its efforts in behalf of striking hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina.

Best of luck in your endeavors and with all good wishes.

Sincerely,

WPR:lbm
opeiu42
enc.

Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy
President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

WPR

MAY 22 1969

Inter-Office Communication

May 22, 1969

OH

6-17-69

To Larry Gettlinger

From William H. Oliver

Subject Contribution to Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Dear Larry:

You are aware of the fact that the President's office and the Officers approved the contribution of $500.00 per week to the SCLC for the period of the Hospital Workers strike in Charleston, South Carolina.

Accordingly, we have already submitted the first check covering the week of May 11 through 17, 1969. Would you please process a check in the amount of $500.00 payable to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and forward it to our office for transmittal to them for the week of May 18-24, 1969.

Kindest regards.

Fraternally,

William H. Oliver

WHO/flo
opeiu42aflcio

cc: Walter P. Reuther

-E.M.
-L.W.
-P.G.

June 27, 1969

Emil Mazey

Walter P. Reuther

Hospital Workers Strike

Dear Emil:

As approved by the Officers at their recent meeting, it was agreed to contribute $500 per week to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for the striking Hospital Workers in Charleston for the duration of their strike.

Would you please process a check in the amount of $2,500 for five weeks (May 18 through June 21) and forward it to Bill Oliver for transmittal.

Fraternally,

LG:ja
opeiu42

JUL 7 1969

F

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

July 3, 1969

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy
President, Southern Christian Leadership
Conference
Brooks Motel - Room 10
60 Morris Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Dear Dr. Abernathy:

In keeping with our commitment, we are transmitting herewith our check # A201884, dated July 1, 1969, in the amount of $1,500.00.

We, as I am sure Local 1199B, are deeply grateful for the continuing contribution which you are making in support of the hospital workers in Charleston.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

William H. Oliver, Co-Director
Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination
Department - UAW

WHO/flo
opeiu42aflcio
encl.

bcc: Walter P. Reuther
Emil Mazey
Larry Gettlinger
Irv Bluestone

JUL 28 1969

2

July 28, 1969

Walter P. Reuther

William H. Oliver

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Dear Walter:

This is regards to your committment to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in conjunction with the strike of the hospital workers in Charlston, South Carolina on Sunday, May 11, 1969. At that time we made a committment to contribute $500.00 a week to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for the duration of the strike. The strike was terminated on July 18, 1969.

Involved in this committment was a total of 10 weeks at $500.00 a week making a total of $5,000.00. On Sunday, May 11, 1969, you presented to Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy a check in the amount of $500.00 and subsequent to we have submitted to them a check in the amount of $1,500.00 or a total of $2,000.00 of the outstanding committment of $5,000.00.

Would you please have a check processed in the amount of $3,000.00 payable to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I will prepare a letter for your transmittal of this final installment on our committment.

With kindest regards.

Fraternally,

WHO:paw
opeiu42

cc: Larry Gettlinger ✓

July 30, 1969

Emil Mazey

Walter Reuther

Dear Emil:

Would you please have processed a check, in the amount of $3,000, payable to SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

This will fufill our commitment of a contribution of $500 per week to SCLC during the strike of the Hospital Workers in Charleston, South Carolina.

Would you please have this sent to my office for transmitting.

Fraternally,

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

July 30, 1969

Dear Ralph:

It was good news to learn that the struggle in Charleston, South Carolina had been brought to an end and that meaningful progress had been made in winning a larger measure of economic and social justice and human dignity for the hospital workers. It was a privilege to have been able to stand and march with you and your colleagues in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in this historic struggle. It was my privilege to have marched with you in Washington, Selma, Jacksonville and Memphis and then in Charleston.

While the striking workers were affiliated with the AFL-CIO, nevertheless we in the UAW wanted to demonstrate our solidarity.

At the time of my visit with you in Charleston on the occasion when I presented the $10,000 check to the strikers, the UAW made a commitment to make a weekly contribution of $500 to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to support the leadership efforts which you were providing in this struggle. Our records indicate the UAW made four weekly payments, totaling $2,000, and I am privileged to enclose a check in the amount of $3,000 which represents the fulfilling of our commitment.

We in the UAW look forward to a continuing and fruitful relationship with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the struggles that still lie ahead in our efforts to build one America in which every citizen can

enjoy equal opportunities and equal rights and share fully in the abundance and blessings of America.

I send my warmest best wishes.

Sincerely,

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
332 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

bcc: Bill Oliver

JUL 28 1969

Inter-Office Communication

July 28, 1969

To Walter P. Reuther

From William H. Oliver

Subject Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Dear Walter:

This is regards to your committment to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in conjunction with the strike of the hospital workers in Charlston, South Carolina on Sunday, May 11, 1969. At that time we made a committment to contribute $500.00 a week to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for the duration of the strike. The strike was terminated on July 18, 1969.

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Would you please have a check processed in the amount of $3,000.00 payable to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I will prepare a letter for your transmittal of this final installment on our committment.

With kindest regards.

Fraternally,

William H. Oliver

WHO:paw
opeiu42

cc: Larry Gettlinger

332 Auburn Ave NW
Atlanta
Ga

STRAIGHT WIRE August 13, 1969

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Fourth Baptist Church
Charlotte and Elizabeth Streets
Charleston, South Carolina

Dear Ralph:

On behalf of the UAW I extend our warm greetings to you and the delegates assembled at the Charleston, South Carolina Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

We are proud to be associated with you and the membership of the Southern Christian Leader Conference who have made such an enormous contribution to the Hospital Workers' strike in Charleston where the recent victory demonstrates the basic concepts of trade union unity and solidarity.

Today, as America celebrates its historic landing on the moon and as its astronauts visit several of the cities of America, you and your group are concerned with the more mundane problem of how to bring about a better quality of life for millions of America's poor. We join with you in these deliberations and we will fight with you to obtain our mutual goals of economic, political and social justice for every American regardless of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.

Now that we have demonstrated to the world our ability to place a man on the moon, we must now get on with the task of helping the poor to take a long step toward a life of security, justice and human dignity. To do this America must reorder its priorities so that all of ~~America~~ Americans can share in the abundance and affluence unmatched by any other free nation in the world.

We in the UAW pledge to you and the delegates assembled our continued dedication, cooperation and support.

Warmest best whishes.

Walter P. Reuther

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM ®

W. P. MARSHALL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

R. W. McFALL
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

DEA038 AC122

A CNY004 CNZ1 BOOK CNZ 1 NB PDF=CHARLESTON SOCAR 7 NFT=
WALTER REUTHER, SOLIDARITY HOUSE 8=
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE DET=

AUG 7 1969

Aug 13-16

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE OUR SPECIAL GUEST AT THE 12TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CONVENTION AUGUST 13-16 1969 IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. IF YOU CAN BE WITH US PLEASE HAVE YOUR SECRETARY CALL MY ASSISTANT STONEY COOKS AT 803-722-84=9 OR 723-9264. ID YOU CAN NOT BE WITH US WE WOULD APPREC=ATE YOUR SENDING A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO OUR CONVENTION.

= RALPH D ABERNATHY PRES SCLC
60 MORRIS ST CHARLESTON SC.

Southern Christian Leadership

?

STRAIGHT WIRE

Decemb er 17, 1969

Reverend Ralph David Abernathy
c/o Clayborn Temple
Memphis, Tennessee

Deeply regret my inability to join with you on Thursday, December 18th. The UAW International Executive Board is in session. However, I am assigning Bill Oliver to head a delegation of UAW representatives who will participate in the ceremonies at the airport and the march. All good wishes.

Walter P. Reuther

WPR:ob
opeiu 42

bcc: Bill ~~Bob~~ Oliver

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

See 18

DEC 16 1969

WUY235 WUB050 CTB061 CT MGY093 MGZ4 LD NL PDB
MEMPHIS TENN 15
(.75 DLY PD)
WALTER REUTHER, SOLIDARITY HOUSE
8000 EAST JEFFESON AVE DET
DEAR FRIEND:
THE STRUGGLE STILL GOES ON IN MEMPHIS. FOR THIS CAUSE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. NOW FOR THIS CAUSE DR. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY IS TO BE JAILED IN MEMPHIS. THE CAUSE IS STILL THE SAME. INJUSTICE INEQUALITY AND BRUTALITY. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT AND FINISH THIS STRUGGLE. TO THIS END WE HERE IN MEMPHIS JOIN IN INVITING YOU TO COME AND LEND YOUR PERSON, YOUR PRESITGE AND YOUR PRESENCE. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY WILL GO TO JAIL WHEN HE COMES TO SURRENDER ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1969. WE INVITE YOU TO BE HERE FOR THE RECEPTION AT THE AIRPORT AND THE MARCH FROM CLAYBORN TEMPLE TO THE COUNTY JAIL AT 4 P.M. THURSDAY. PLEASE LET US KNOW TIME OF ARRIVAL
H. RALPH JACKSON 280 HERNANDO 526-4281.

848A EST DEC 16 69

V

TO: Ralph David Abernathy
PETITIONS
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

I support the effort to ask the Congress and the President of the United States to declare each January 15th a National Holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

My signature below can be used on a poster-petition calling for this Holiday, to be printed and distributed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

(Please sign in black ink or black ball-point in the space between the two lines. Please write legibly.)

Walter Reuther

(Note: Signature will be expanded to appear larger on the actual poster.)

Title or identification (if desired on poster):

President, International Union, UAW

Date: December 19, 1969

PLEASE MAIL BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

334 Auburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone 522-1420

SCLC

DEC 1 1 1969

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*
1957 - 1968

Ralph D. Abernathy, *President*

J.E. Lowery, *Chairman of the Board*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Vice President*

December 4, 1969

Mr. Walter Reuther
United Automobile Workers of America
Solidarity House
Detroit, Michigan

File

Dear Mr. Reuther:

As you probably know, a large number of local and national organizations are supporting a drive to make each January 15th, the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a National Holiday.

We believe that such a Holiday would be a fitting tribute to Dr. King and the things he stood for, and that an annual observance of his birthday would serve to make future generations of Americans aware of this great man and his work.

In order to encourage citizens to support this drive, we are calling on you and approximately 50 other distinguished Americans to permit your signature to appear on a special poster. This poster will be in the form of a petition calling upon the Congress and the President to declare each January 15th a National Holiday in honor of Dr. King.

We shall be deeply grateful to you if you will sign the enclosed form and return it promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your signature will be used only on the petition-poster. The signatures we collect will be placed in alphabetical order.

We hope to hear from you no later than Friday, December 19.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have already signed petitions calling for this Holiday, and we are confident that your support will help to obtain millions of more signatures.

Sincerely,

Ralph D. Abernathy

Ralph David Abernathy
President

December 23, 1969

Rev. Andrew J. Young, Vice-President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

I regret my inability to personally participate with Dr. Ralph Abernathy and his colleagues representing the several religious faiths on the occasion of the Christmas Eve festival of life-ecumenical services scheduled for December 24 in Memphis, Tennessee.

We share with Dr. Abernathy and his colleagues a mutual concern and commitment to a nation dedicated to human justice, freedom and brotherhood.

We in the UAW are proud to join with you in the great struggle for peace, economic, political and social justice for every American. We have traditionally opposed all acts of repression as well as attempts by reactionary forces to silence individual dissent and a free press; all of which is alien to our basic democratic precepts. We stand with you and your colleagues in this hour of great crisis and we pledge to you and your colleagues our continuing support in the on-going campaign in which all of us are ~~engagexdx~~ engaged to end defiance of school desegregation, to extend the Voting Roghts Act of 1965 and to improve the quality of life for the millions of America's poor who have yet to enjoy the full benefits of our Democratic society.

In this season of "Peace on Earth - Good will toward Men" our prayers are with you as we move ahead to complete the unfinished tasks of

building a just and humane social order where all of God's children may share in the blessings of peace, freedom and social justice.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

Walter P. Reuther

WPR:lm

Inter-Office Communication

December 23, 1969

To Walter P. Reuther

From William H. Oliver

Subject

Dear Walter:

I am attaching herewith a draft of what I believe would be an appropriate reply to Rev. Andrew J. Young's wire to you of December 22, 1969 (attached).

Kindest regards.

Fraternally,

WHO/flo
opeiu42
encl.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

WUY234 WUB025 AA031 A LLY061 LLZ1
LLZ01 NL PDB
ATLANTA GA 21

DEC 22 1969

WALTER REUTHER, SOLIDARITY HOUSE, DLY .75
8000 EAST JEFFERSON AVE DET

REV RALPH D. ABERNATHY AND FOUR MEMPHIS MINISTERS HAVE MADE A PERSONAL DECISION, AS CLERGYMEN AND MORAL SPOKESMEN, TO SPEND CHRISTMAS IN JAIL. THE MEMPHIS FIVE ARE CLERGYMEN OF THE BAPTIST, ROMAN CATHOLIC, AME, PRESBYTERIAN, AND METHODIST DENOMINATIONS. THEY ARE FASTING AND MAKING THIS A WITNESS, BOTH FOR POOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS MYSTIQUE, AND TO EXPRESS URGENT ALARM ABOUT GROWING REPRESSION IN THIS COUNTRY. ! THERE IS NO BETTER TIME THAN CHRISTMAS FOR CLERGYMEN AND PEOPLE WITH MORAL CONCERN TO MAKE WITNESS OF THEIR COMMITMENT BY CHALLENGING OPPRESSION AND REPRESSION: IT IS URGENTLY NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGE IN THIS SEASON OF 1969. ! DR. ABERNATHY AND THE FOUR MEMPHIS MINISTERS HAVE REFUSED BAIL AND REMAIN UNDER A TENNESSEE INDICTMENT DESIGNED TO CRUSH FREE SPEECH AND THE MOVEMENT. THIS IS ONLY THE LATEST IN A WAVE OF REPRESSIVE ACTS, INCLUDING ATTACKS ON THE PANTHERS, VIOLENCE AGAINST THE "NOT-SO-SILENT MAJORITY", INTIMIDATION OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT, THREATS AGAINST A FREE PRESS, DEIANCE OF DESEGREGATION RULINGS, ATTEMPTS TO KILL THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, FAILURE TO ENFORCE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, ATTACKS ON YOUNG MEN WHO REFUSE THE DRAFT, AND STIFLING OF G.I. DISSENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE ACTS ARE DIRECTED OR ENCOURAGED BY HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE ARE CALLING UPON YOU TO SPEAK OUT AND EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THE MEMPHIS FIVE, THE POOR AND OPPRESSED. WE ASK YOU TO COME TO MEMPHIS ON DECEMBER 24 FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL OF LIFE-ECUMENICAL SERVICE AND/OR TO WITNESS AT THE JAIL IN MEMPHIS ON CHRISTMAS DAY; OR TO SEND TELEGRAMS TO DR. ABERNATHY AND THE MEMPHIS FIVE AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL, MEMPHIS, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, OR GOVERNOR BUFORD ELLINGTON, NASHVILLE TENNESSEE. ! WE URGE PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL AND CHURCHMEN TO JOIN DR. ABERNATHY IN HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT WHICH IS COMMITMENT NOT TO BE SILENCED AND PRAYER FOR ALL CHILDREN THAT THEY MIGHT LIVE IN A WORLD OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, BROTHERHOOD, AND PEACE. PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY AT EITHER 334 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E., ATLANTA, (404) 522-1420, OR THE LORRAINE MOTEL, MEMPHIS, (901) 525-6834

ANDREW J YOUNG SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

859A EST DEC 22 69